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REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATING TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Information received from the United Nations system

Overview of current indigenous related activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

What is FAO?

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was founded in 1945 with a mandate to raise levels of nutrition and standards of living, to improve agricultural productivity and to better the condition of rural populations. Today, FAO is one of the largest specialized agencies in the United Nations system and the lead agency for agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development. An intergovernmental organization, FAO has 183 member countries plus one member organization, the European Community. Since its inception, FAO has worked to alleviate poverty and hunger by promoting agricultural development, improved nutrition and the pursuit of food security - defined as the access of all people at all times to the food they need for an active and healthy life.

2. FAO is governed by the Conference of member nations, which meets every two years to review the work carried out by the Organization and approve a Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. The Conference elects a Council of 49 member nations to act as an

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interim governing body. Members serve three-year, rotating terms. The Conference also elects the Director-General to head the agency. The current Director-General, Dr. Jacques Diouf, of Senegal, began a six-year term in January 1994 and was re-elected to a second term of six years, which began in January 2000. FAO is composed of eight departments: Administration and Finance, Agriculture, Economic and Social, Fisheries, Forestry, General Affairs and Information, Sustainable Development and Technical Cooperation. FAO has a permanent personnel establishment of about 3,500 staff members - 1,500 professional and 2,000 general service staff - and maintains 5 regional offices, 5 subregional offices, 5 liaison offices and 78 country offices, in addition to its headquarters in Rome.

3. The Organization's work falls into two broad categories: the Regular Programme and the Field Programme.

4. The Regular Programme covers a variety of activities of general interest to the membership, including support for fieldwork and advice to Governments on policy and planning, and also includes special "windows" to finance development projects. It is funded by member countries, which contribute according to levels set by the Conference. For the biennium 2002-2003, the Conference approved a budget of US$ 651.7 million.

5. The Field Programme gives concrete shape to FAO development strategies, providing assistance mainly through projects that are usually undertaken in cooperation with national Governments and other agencies. In 1999, approximately 77 per cent of Field Programme finances came from national trust funds and 9 per cent from the United Nations Development Programme. FAO contributes about 13 per cent through its Technical Cooperation Programme and 1 per cent through its Special Programme for Food Security, both under the Regular Programme budget.

6. Since 1994, FAO has undergone the most significant restructuring since its founding to decentralize operations, streamline procedures and reduce costs. Savings approximating US$ 50 million a year have been realized. Highlights of the reforms include:

Increased emphasis on food security;

Decentralization to regional and subregional offices;

Increased use of experts from developing countries and countries in transition;

Broadened links with the private sector and non-governmental organizations;

Greater electronic access to FAO statistical databases and documents.

7. In 1999, the Conference approved a "Strategic framework 2000-2015". It was developed through extensive consultations with member nations and other FAO stakeholders and provides the blueprint for the Organization's future programmes, progressively refined in the context of a rolling medium-term planning process covering six years.

What FAO does

Development assistance

8. FAO gives practical help to developing countries and countries in transition through a wide range of technical assistance projects. The Organization encourages an integrated approach, with environmental, social and economic considerations included in the formulation of development projects.

Information

9. FAO collects, analyses, interprets and disseminates information relating to nutrition, food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Organization serves as a clearing-house, providing farmers, scientists, government planners, traders and non-governmental organizations with the information they need to make rational decisions on planning, investment, marketing, research and training.

Advice to Governments

10. Drawing on its widespread information networks and the skills and experience of its technical staff, FAO provides independent advice on agricultural policy and planning, and on the administrative and legal structures needed for development. The organization also advises on national strategies for rural development, food security and the alleviation of poverty.

Neutral forum

11. FAO provides a neutral forum where all nations can meet to discuss and cooperate in relation to major food and agriculture issues. FAO approves international standards and helps frame international conventions and agreements. It also hosts major conferences, technical meetings and consultations of experts.

12. In connection with the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, FAO has appointed the Land Tenure Service (Paul Munro-Faure, Chief of the Service) as focal point for these issues.

An overview of the indigenous related activities of FAO

13. FAO works with indigenous people and their organizations in many of its Regular Programme activities. Indigenous issues are an integral part of the work of numerous organizational units, including those working in household food security and nutrition, fisheries, forestry, land, water, plant production and protection, livestock, agricultural support systems and legal advice, as well as units dealing with participation, rural institutions and land tenure.

14. The programmes and activities involving indigenous people (including traditional communities) include:

Indigenous land husbandry;

Biodiversity, including global programmes on plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Farmer field schools;

Farmers' rights;

Nutrition and household food security;

Food insecurity and vulnerability profiling and mapping;

Sustainable forest management;

Development law;

Land tenure;

Rural institutions and participation;

Gender, population and indigenous knowledge;

Research, extension and training.

More detailed information on these activities is found in the annex to this briefing note.*

15. The FAO Field Programme is also involved with indigenous issues. The Technical Cooperation Department has overall responsibility for the operational activities of FAO, including policy assistance, investment support and the overall management of activities associated with the formulation and implementation of in-country, subregional and regional programmes and projects, including those in response to a natural or man-made disaster.

16. The Policy Assistance Division is the main channel for providing member countries with policy advice related to national development policies, programmes and strategies aimed at creating a favourable economic environment for food security and agricultural and rural development. The Division also assists countries in developing their national capacity in the field of policy analysis and formulation through policy training.

17. The Investment Centre Division has the role of aiding FAO member countries to reach their investment goals in support of enhanced and sustainable agricultural and rural development through its cooperative agreements with 20 international agencies that provide financing and grants for agricultural and rural development projects and programmes, as well as food aid. These include the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, all regional and subregional development banks, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the World Food Programme.

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* The annex of the report is available in English only.

18. The Field Operations Division manages and mobilizes resources for technical cooperation projects, including in the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security, and for various relief operations.

19. In collaboration with the technical departments of FAO and partner agencies, the Technical Cooperation Department takes account of the needs of indigenous people in various degrees according to the specific contexts of its operations. For example, the project formulation work by the Investment Centre Division takes into consideration the financing institutions' safeguard policies governing the indigenous population.

Indigenous issues and the World Food Summit: five years later

20. FAO will host a global meeting at its Rome headquarters from 10 to 13 June 2002 to review progress towards ending hunger. The meeting, the "World Food Summit: five years later", is meant to track progress achieved since the 1996 World Food Summit and consider ways to accelerate the process.

21. The summit was originally scheduled to be held from 5 to 9 November 2001, but was postponed in the aftermath of the 11 September attacks in the United States. "The purpose of this event is to give new impetus to worldwide efforts on behalf of hungry people", says Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO. "We must raise both the political will and the financial resources to fight hunger. The international community has repeatedly declared that it is dedicated to the eradication of poverty. Eliminating hunger is a vital first step."

22. Indigenous peoples' organizations are participating fully in the preparations for the World Food Summit: five years later. A focal point for indigenous peoples' organizations is a member of the International Non-Government Organizations/Civil Society Organizations Planning Committee for the World Food Summit: five years later, which is responsible also for preparation of the NGO Forum which will take place in parallel to the Summit. The quota system applied for accreditation to the Forum will ensure that a fair proportion (9.4 per cent) of the 606 delegates represent indigenous peoples from the various regions. In preparation for the World Food Summit: five years later, FAO is providing support for an international consultation of indigenous peoples on the right to food which will be held in Guatemala from 17 to 19 April 2002.

Indigenous issues, FAO and the World Summit on Sustainable Development

23. FAO is responsible for coordinating and reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development on progress in its role as task manager for several chapters of Agenda 21 (including chapter 10 on integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources, chapter 11 on combating deforestation, chapter 13 on managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development and chapter 14 on promoting sustainable agricultural and rural development). This responsibility includes liaison, inter alia with NGOs and indigenous peoples as identified major groups for the implementation of Agenda 21. Liaison with these major groups is an important activity through the various stages and meetings in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg in 2002.

Indigenous issues related to sustainable development in mountains and the International Year of Mountains 2002

24. Mountain regions are home to many indigenous and traditional communities. Indigenous knowledge and experience is often a key component of land use systems practised in mountain areas and needs to be fully incorporated in strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development. As the lead agency for the International Year of Mountains 2002, FAO is encouraging and assisting countries to establish national committees to plan observance of the Year and to initiate national strategies for mountain areas. This includes promoting full participation of indigenous groups as members of national committees and in developing strategies and programmes that adequately consider their particular knowledge, needs and circumstances.

Annex

REGULAR PROGRAMME AREAS OF RELEVANCE TO INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
Agriculture	Indigenous land husbandry	In its work in the areas of policy and planning and in the management and development of land and water resources, the Land and Water Development Division actively promotes participatory approaches to enhance the active involvement in decision-making by all concerned stakeholders including poor farmers, indigenous groups and local communities. This is exemplified through farmer field school approaches for capacity-building and participatory technology development for improved land and water resources management that are being advocated through the Division's projects and activities in sub-Saharan Africa. The Land and Water Development Division has developed guidelines and a CD-ROM with extensive training material on participatory training and extension in land and water management. The approaches are developed within the framework of the Special Programme for Food Security and address the specific needs of indigenous people by reviewing their livelihood assets and priorities. The Land and Water Development Division has prepared a project concept note for a Global Environment Facility-United Nations Development Fund (GEF/UNDP) project on Globally Important Indigenous Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). The aim of this project is to identify and mobilize recognition and conservation of globally important agricultural heritage systems and landscapes and their associated agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems and to enhance the local, national and global benefits derived through their management and conservation. FAO would liaise closely with indigenous groups in this endeavour. FAO contributed to the Report of the World Commission on Dams, which recommends specific principles when dealing with indigenous issues (prior informed consent).

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
	Biodiversity, including global programmes on plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture	In its programme on biodiversity for food and agriculture which contributes to the implementation of the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity on agricultural biodiversity, FAO places great importance on the conservation and sustainable use of farmers' plant varieties and landraces and domestic animal breeds and races that have been developed and adapted over generations by local and indigenous communities to suit their socio-economic context and biophysical conditions. FAO is coordinating the preparation of country reports, which will contribute to the First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources. Emphasis is placed on the maintenance of sustainable and diverse farming systems that not only ensure the maintenance of ecosystem functions such as nutrient cycling and water quality but also ensure risk management from threats such as drought, pest and disease.
	Farmer field schools	The Global Integrated Pest Management Facility hosted by the Plant Protection Service continues to support Andean small-scale farmers, Quichua/Quechua "Indios" in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Furthermore, different ethnic minorities living in Viet Nam and growing, inter alia, rain-fed rice benefit from farmer field school programmes. Indigenous farmer communities often have limited resource bases and mostly produce for subsistence. The Integrated Production and Pest Management Farmers Field Schools (IPPM-FFS) contribute to improved food security and poverty alleviation by empowering farmers to enhance their knowledge in order to optimize the efficiency of their limited resources. IPPM allows farmers to minimize dependence on costly agro-chemicals that have a negative impact on environment and health. Field schools integrate traditional local knowledge and broader ecological principles and improve their environment through prevention of contamination.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
	Farmers' rights	The plant genetic resources on which world food security depends have been developed for over 10,000 years by farmers and farming communities. These crops, from their centres of origin, have been exchanged all over the world, and farmers have selected and acclimatized them in a wide variety of environments and of specific needs. In the process, through this communal effort, they have built up the portfolio of intra-specific diversity that is contained in traditional farming systems. Countries are interdependent in regard to these resources, which are the raw material for all plant improvement by farmers and their communities, by plant breeders and through biotechnology. In the context of the FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was the first international agreement for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources, the 1989 FAO Conference, by resolution 5/89, considering that, in the history of mankind, unnumbered generations of farmers had conserved, improved and made available plant genetic resources, endorsed Farmers' Rights, defined as meaning "rights arising from the past, present and future contributions of farmers in conserving, improving, and making available plant genetic resources, particularly those in the centres of origin/diversity", with the aim of "ensuring full benefits to farmers, and supporting the continuation of their contributions", in order to "assist farmers and farming communities, in all regions of the world, but especially in the areas of origin/diversity of plant genetic resources, in the protection and conservation of their plant genetic resources, and of the natural biosphere" and "to allow farmers, their communities, and countries in all regions, to participate fully in the benefits derived, at present and in the future, from the improved use of plant genetic resources, through plant breeding and other scientific methods". The resolution aimed to balance the rights of the informal innovators, whose crops provide the basic material for modern plant technology, with those of the developers of plant varieties under forms of intellectual property.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		On 3 November 2001, after seven years of intergovernmental negotiations in the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to revise the International Undertaking in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the FAO Conference adopted the new binding International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Treaty, which will enter into force upon ratification by 40 countries, makes specific provision for the recognition of Farmers' Rights in article 9, which reads as follows: 9.1 The Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world. 9.2 The Contracting Parties agree that the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights, as they relate to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, rests with national Governments. In accordance with their needs and priorities, each Contracting Party should, as appropriate, and subject to its national legislation, take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including: (a) Protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; (b) The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and (c) The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		9.3 Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to limit any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate. Moreover, the Treaty, in its preamble, affirms that "the past, present and future contribution of farmers in all regions of the world, particularly those in centres of origin and diversity, in conserving, improving and making available these resources, is the basis of Farmers' Rights", and that "the rights recognized in this Treaty to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and other propagating material, and to participate in decision-making regarding, and in the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from, the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, are fundamental to the realization of Farmers' Rights, as well as the promotion of Farmers' Rights at national and international levels".
	Processing and storage	The Agricultural Support Systems Division, through the Information Network on Post Harvest Operations (INPHO), has consolidated, documented and disseminated information on the traditional processing and storage of a number of foods which are locally grown in developing countries (see at http://www.fao.org/inpho). Much of the information presented in INPHO relates to developing and improving traditional practices. The World Intellectual Property Organization has supported this initiative on the principle that it provides a basis for identifying indigenous technologies and protecting them.
Economic and Social	Nutrition and household food security	The Food and Nutrition Division is systematically incorporating the identification and targeting of indigenous groups and the use of indigenous knowledge and resources in its community-based nutrition programme work. A methodology and procedures for documenting traditional food systems of indigenous peoples have been developed in collaboration with the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE) of McGill University, Canada. Through this partnership, FAO has worked with indigenous peoples in Thailand, China and Bangladesh on the identification and re-introduction of the consumption of native foods with good potential for alleviating micronutrient deficiencies, and particularly vitamin A.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		The Food and Nutrition Division is also collaborating with the Asian Vegetable Research Development Centre through its Africa Branch in Tanzania on the identification and domestication of indigenous vegetables, some of which are traditionally known and used for addressing micronutrient deficiencies. With support from FAO, the INFOODS Regional Data Centres are carrying out work related to analysing foods of indigenous peoples and compiling those data in national food composition databases and printed food tables.
	Food insecurity and vulnerability profiling and mapping	As part of the Food and Nutrition Division's Nutrition Country Profiling work, subnational nutrition and household food security information related to indigenous groups is systematically incorporated in the profiles. In 2001, the Agriculture and Economic Development Analysis Division carried out special vulnerable group profiling exercises in mountain areas of Viet Nam and Guatemala which are largely inhabited by indigenous groups. Vulnerable group profiles are being prepared for Nepal and Ethiopia and a special paper on mountain people has been prepared in the Department in the context of the International Year of Mountains. The Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) programme is integrating information on food insecure and vulnerable groups at the national and subnational levels. FIVIMS is designed to capture information on indigenous peoples as they are often amongst the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Indigenous peoples' organizations are among the various stakeholders involved in the FIVIMS process.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
Forestry	Sustainable forest management	Participation and empowerment of indigenous people in sustainable forest management is an integral part of the efforts of the Forestry Department. Specific examples include: For agricultural and timber products, certification and benefit sharing mechanisms have been established in order to monitor and evaluate the ecologically friendly, economically viable and/or socially equitable use of these products. Criteria and indicators have been elaborated, against which production and commercialization are assessed. Fair trade schemes and benefit sharing arrangements focus on social aspects of trade and the adequate sharing of benefits among stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities. Non-wood forest products (NWFP) have only recently been incorporated in some of these mechanisms. The relevance of these mechanisms for the sustainable use of NWFP is being analysed and the methods used to assess the sustainable production and commercialization of NWFP are being tested and documented. In forest extension the emphasis is on demonstrating multi-partnership extension models for the forest sector; supply chains for timber and NWFP that demonstrate principles of sustainable forest management, and social and economic equity; and the generation of mechanisms for enhancing market access of tree and forest product users and gatherers. Indigenous peoples being the custodians of much of the physical and intellectual wealth of forests, are the instrumental partner in many such initiatives. In the Forests, Trees and People Programme (FTPP), there is a commitment to the betterment of indigenous/local forest users in Asia, Latin America and Africa through thematic support in conflict management, marketing analysis and development, participatory processes, and gender. FTPP support to partners

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		includes: alliances to promote the community forestry bill addressing fundamental rights of hill tribes in northern Thailand; the Indigenous, Peasant and Afro-American Co-ordination for Community Agroforestry which facilitates indigenous people's experimentation in community forestry and in Peru supports the development of the guidelines for effective management from indigenous perspective in conjunction with COICAP (Coordinadora Agroforestal Campesina e Indigena del Peru) and the World Wildlife Fund. In Latin America, particularly Honduras, the indigenous communities, through their representatives, have been involved in the participatory mechanisms that enable them to put forward their own demands and expectations in relation to forestry policies, laws and regulations. With regard to support provided to countries in developing status and action plans for forest genetic resources, indigenous peoples are among the local people involved in programmes on forest biological diversity. In addition, the Forestry Department's programmes on genetic resources and forest biological diversity support action under article 8 (j) on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
Office of the Legal Counsel	Development law	The Development Law Service provides assistance in law reform in the technical areas of the Organization's work to member countries, upon request. Customary rights of access to and use of land, water, forestry and fisheries resources, which are traditionally exercised by rural communities either individually or collectively, are taken into consideration both in the legislative review and the legal reform processes that are supported by the Service. Given their particular relevance to the specific needs and circumstances of local populations and indigenous peoples in many countries, these rights are often formally recognized and guaranteed in national legislation on natural resource management.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
Sustainable Development	Land tenure	The Land Tenure Service's publication, *Land Reform Land Settlement and Cooperatives*, frequently includes papers directly relating to indigenous land issues. In 2000, for example, the first volume included "Recognition of ancestral domain claims on Palawan Island, the Philippines: is there a future?" The second volume of 2000 contains a paper entitled "Indigenous highlands in transition: the case of Ha Giang province in Northern Vietnam." The first volume for 2001 includes a paper on indigenous rights in Canada, "Canadian land reform: an overview of Aboriginal rights and land settlement claims." Indigenous land issues are included in the Service's major outputs for 2002-2003: "Assistance to land tenure modifications under indigenous and common property resource management systems, for balanced rural development." This activity focuses on the African Lusophone countries, where the Service also has considerable field involvement; on indigenous pastoralism regimes in the Near East; and on preparing guidelines for negotiated land conflict resolution.
	Rural institutions and participation	The strengthening of customary local institutions for natural resource management and for disaster prevention and coping is at the core of an ongoing programme of the Rural Institutions and Participation Service. In the context of decentralization policies and shrinking resources in remote rural areas, the programme also assesses options and mechanisms for improved local level interaction between customary/indigenous local institutions and local government authorities and/or other non-governmental actors. The programme focuses on Central Asia (including north-west China) and the Near East and on nomadic and pastoral societies. The Service has participated in several activities with the Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. One aim of the project "Apiculture development in Karnataka", 1996-1998, was to develop an ecological and economically sound extension programme for landless and tribal people to reintroduce beekeeping and honey production based income and employment generating activities. The project developed and field tested a field manual on ecologically sound and economically viable practices in bee hunting/keeping and honey gathering, production and processing for landless tribal women's groups.

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		The Service and the Regional Office are also collaborating with the Federation of Savings and Credit Unions in Thailand to develop adapted training materials and approaches for skills development for community groups and cooperatives established by ethnic minority groups in northern Thailand. Again in Thailand, working also with other partners, support has been given for capacity-building of village level women's groups from an ethnic minority to improve the packaging and marketing of their organic farming produce. A third initiative with the Regional Office has been in field project formulation in Maharastra, India, to develop an institutional capacity-building programme for small and medium enterprise development in the five poorest districts with ethnic minorities in the State of Maharastra.
	Gender, population and indigenous knowledge	The Women and Population Division provides technical backstopping in both sociocultural research on population issues, including research on the population aspects of indigenous communities, and how gender-specific local knowledge can offer greater understanding about natural resource management (agricultural biodiversity, land, water, mountains, urban agriculture, forests and drylands). Indigenous knowledge is gender-specific and underpins cultural and resource conservation practices, the associated institutions that support these practices and the strengthening of sustainable livelihoods. The Division's project "Gender, biodiversity and local knowledge systems to strengthen agriculture and rural development in southern Africa" (LinKS) is not specific to indigenous peoples, but touches on indigenous knowledge and its preservation. LinKS is a regional project being implemented in Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Mozambique whose main aim is to strengthen the capacity of key institutions and organizations to understand and apply farmers' knowledge and experience for the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. The project builds on partner organizations' existing activities in this area and supports their ongoing work by: Training of field level staff in how to record and document local knowledge and how to use gender analysis and participatory methods for both research and action processes;

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		Grants and technical assistance for research on gender-based differences in farmers' knowledge related to agro-biodiversity conservation; and Technical assistance to enhance communication and exchange of information about the value of local knowledge in agriculture within and between communities, with institutions that interact with farmers and with policy makers. The project works with a diverse group of partners in each country. These include NGOs, government institutions, universities and training and communications entities. Research is also being undertaken on specific issues of local knowledge and biodiversity conservation.
	Research, extension and training	The Research, Extension and Training Division has been involved in, or is planning to carry out, a range of activities related to indigenous issues: In Bolivia project activities have been carried out to implement intercultural communication. This has included development of communication systems managed by indigenous people and the production of multimedia training packages in local languages (Guaraní, Chiquitano and Quechua). A case study is also under preparation for publication on a communication system managed by indigenous people with FAO support "Yasarekomo. Autodiagnóstico de una experiencia de comunicación para el desarrollo del pueblo Guaraní en Bolivia." A further case study has been prepared on local communication and power relations within Guaraní communities: "La participación entre bastidores - La comunicación y toma de decisiones entre los guaraníes del Izozog, Bolivia."

Lead department	Activity	Brief description
		A study and training exercise on Agricultural and Knowledge Information Systems (AKIS) was carried out in 2001 in sub-Zoba Hagaz in Eritrea with Danida and the University of Reading, United Kingdom. This exercise: Identified the information and technology needs of different categories of farmers in the context of their own indigenous knowledge; and Trained extension staff in a methodology for participatory AKIS assessments to develop farmer-led extension (advisory) services. A study analysing information and knowledge-sharing processes among pastoralists in Eritrea, including innovation and change factors, is under way with the University of Rome's Centre for Development Studies on Indigenous Knowledge and Information Systems (IKIS). A field study on the gender dimensions of AKIS is being developed with the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, to be implemented in 2002 in Eritrea or Kenya. The study will identify gender information needs of pastoralist groups on the basis of their indigenous perspectives. A case study on government programmes and education issues related to livelihood conditions of ethnic minority groups in northern Thailand is being finalized together with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.